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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), on the basis of informal consultations

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and recalling its resolutions on the subject matter, including 2011/6 of 14 July 2011, 2012/24 of 27 July 2012 and 2013/16 of 24 July 2013,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[2] the 2005 World Summit,[3] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[4] the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

* E/2014/1/Rev.1, annex II.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[4] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[6] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century,[7] as well as in the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[8]

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, and the important roles played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, and taking note of the agreed conclusions and decisions of the Commission related to the promotion and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, entitled "Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", including in particular section III.D on gender equality and women's empowerment,

Recalling the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010, entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General,[9] and appreciates that it provides a comprehensive and systemic approach to data collection and evidence-based analysis of gender mainstreaming through the United Nations system;

2. *Also welcomes* the recommendations contained in the report, and calls for intensified and continued efforts to mainstream a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, into all policies and programmes of the United Nations, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions, in particular those of the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Stresses* that the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for achieving more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system and for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas and practical experiences on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued role of the Network in accelerating the implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Also stresses* the need to leverage existing inter-agency networks, including the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the United Nations Evaluation Group and the Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, to take

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[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[8] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] E/2014/63.

increased responsibility for the implementation of relevant action plan performance indicators;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289, and recognizes its role in assisting Member States upon their request;

6. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, in accordance with previous Economic and Social Council resolutions, in particular resolution 2008/34 of 25 July 2008, and General Assembly resolutions 64/289 and 67/226, including by:

(a) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in all its operational mechanisms, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other development frameworks;

(b) Ensuring that managers provide strong leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming;

(c) Increasing investment in and focus on outputs and outcomes relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting so as to allow for system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming;

(e) Mobilizing and developing sufficient gender expertise for planning, implementation and gender-related resource allocation and tracking;

(f) Mainstreaming gender-responsive planning and budgeting and intensifying the use of gender marker systems, including in the humanitarian programme cycle;

(g) Strengthening capacities and using existing resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming;

7. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue and increase support to Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women and girls and related national entities;

8. *Welcomes* the report on the second year of implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and commends the progress made under the leadership of UN-Women in the performance of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming;

9. *Requests* the continued use of reporting under the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to

inform the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective in all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in order to measure the progress of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming at the corporate level against the baseline defined in 2013;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and senior managers to continue directing their attention to promoting gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system;

11. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that, while building United Nations staff capacities is very important, additional efforts, such as those recommended in the report of the Secretary-General, would enable the entire United Nations system to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

12. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective organizational mandates, to continue working collaboratively to enhance and accelerate gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system including by:

(a) Fully implementing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, including ensuring 100 per cent reporting compliance by all relevant entities, in order to meet its targets;

(b) Investing in adequate human and financial resources to address shortcomings that threaten to impede progress, including in the areas of gender policies, capacity development, education and training resource tracking and allocation, the equal representation of women and organizational culture;

(c) Supporting efforts by the governing bodies of United Nations entities to devote adequate attention to gender mainstreaming in their plans and activities;

(d) Ensuring that the various accountability mechanisms of the United Nations system provide for more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring, evaluation and reporting on gender equality results and common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(e) Ensuring the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the promotion of the use of gender markers that apply similar standards and principles to allow for comparability and aggregation;

(f) Continuing to better align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, as requested by the Member State concerned, with the aim of mainstreaming gender perspectives into all legislation, policies and programmes, and supporting national and regional preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;[6]

(g) Strengthening the coordination of gender-responsive operational activities among entities of the United Nations system through existing coordination mechanisms at the country level and in partnership, where appropriate, with national stakeholders;

(h) Instituting greater accountability in evaluations conducted by United Nations country teams by including gender perspectives in such evaluations;

(i) Empowering resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators to promote gender mainstreaming and to expand and strengthen the use by country teams of the United Nations Development Group performance indicators on gender equality (gender "scorecard"), including in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as a planning, accountability, monitoring, evaluation and reporting tool for assessing the effectiveness of gender mainstreaming;

(j) Substantially increasing the investment in and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework programmes, including by strengthening the predictability of the funding, broadening the donor base and increasing the flexibility of non-core resources;

(k) Acquiring appropriate technical expertise for gender mainstreaming into programme planning and implementation to ensure that gender dimensions are systematically addressed, and in this regard drawing on the gender equality expertise available in the United Nations system, including at UN-Women and from gender advisers, to assist in the preparation of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other relevant programming frameworks;

(l) Collecting, analysing, disseminating and using accurate, reliable, comparable and relevant data, disaggregated by, inter alia, sex, age and disability, in a regular and systematic manner, in order to guide country programming, to support the preparation of organization-wide and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks and evaluations, and to continue to promote and refine their tools for measuring progress and impact;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2015 a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the promotion of accountability at both the national and the global levels and on progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.